

Crab Task Force Meeting Minutes, July 21,2015
UNO Advanced Technology Center
2021 Lakeshore Dr., suite 210
New Orleans, LA

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Ashley Roth called the roll:

Voting Members Present:

Eric Blanchard
Chalin Delaune
Trudy Luke
Pete Geric
Rodney Parfait
Kim Alfonso
Warren Delacroix
Paul Alfonso—entered at 1:08 p.m.

Voting Members Absent:

LaQuita Meek
James Bergeron
Gustave “Eddie Chagnard”

Non-Voting Members Present

Mark Schexnayder
Captain Chad Hebert
Julie Lively

Non-Voting Members Absent

Mellssa Daigle
Alan Matherne

Motion to approve April 14, 2015 meeting minutes by Eric Blanchard, second by Kim Alfonso. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve financial report by Kim Alfonso, second by Eric Blanchard.
Budget balance is \$21,508 and fund balance is \$128,979

Cole Garrett addressed the task force, two bills went in LDWF package, the first one was to fix something that was missed in the professionalism program the year

before. The sponsorship path previously didn't grandfather in those who held a wholesale/retail dealer license between 2011-2014 and could show landings for two of those four years then you could get your crab trap gear license and be a sponsor for the program.

The second bill was Act 303 by Karen St. Germain.

This bill raises the fee of Commercial Crab Trap Gear License from \$35 to \$50 for residents and for non-residents, \$140 to \$200. Of those fees, for resident licenses \$10 will go to the crab promotion fund and \$10 to the derelict crab trap clean-up fund.

The proportionate amount from the non-resident fees will also go. Cole Garrett also brought up the law 56:305.3, which says that you can transfer any gear license you have, except for those that cannot be transferred by law and can only be used by the person who holds the license. This should not stop someone from being able to use your traps, but they would have to hold their own gear license.

Kim Alfonso made a motion that legislation be introduced stating that 75 percent of someone's income must come from commercial fishing to be able to get a crab trap gear license. This would be verified through tax documents. Second by Paul Alfonso. Discussion was held. Motion adopted. Cole Garrett reminded task force members that this motion could be amended before legislation is drafted.

Jack Issacs presented additional information on his research for "selected statistics for respondents who targeted crabs"

MSC update- Damon Morris said that audit was completed with MSC so next one will be in April of next year and will be the 4th and final audit. The task force will need consider the MSC audit at their future meeting.

Darren Bourgeois spoke on LFF. 148 currently enrolled in program, 53 conditionally approved, waiting to review videos.

Boaters safety course can be completed online for free or in person. People within enforcement have volunteered to assist with language.

Jeffrey Marx asked for suggested locations for derelict crab trap removal. They are limited to Barataria and Pontchartrain estuaries. Places in shallow water where you can see the bank, also places where traps are underwater. Grant from NOAA will pay for side sonar, also studying bycatch in the traps. Goal is to harvest 11,000 traps within a year. Jeffrey Marx will need to submit something to the commission by October.

The task force will have a legislative committee meeting and fall meeting. Motion to adjourn by Trudy Luke, second by Kim Alfonso.

Meeting adjourned.